

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A peptide having the amino acid sequence represented by Asp-Leu-Z4-Leu-Arg-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 126 wherein Z4 denotes Glu, Gln, or Asp) and capable of converting a transcription factor into a transcriptional repressor.

18. (New) The peptide according to claim 17 having the amino acid sequence according to claim 17, said peptide having the amino acid sequence represented by formula (III) and capable of converting a transcription factor into a transcriptional repressor:

Z1-Asp-Leu-Z2-Leu-Arg-Leu-Z3 (III)

(SEQ ID NO: 125)

wherein Z1 denotes Leu, Asp-Leu, or Leu-Asp-Leu; Z2 denotes Glu, Gln, or Asp; and Z3 denotes 0 to 10 amino acid residues.

19. (New) A protein having the peptide according to claim 17 and having any of the following amino acid sequences (a) to (d) and capable of converting a transcription factor into a transcriptional repressor:

(a) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 31;

(b) an amino acid sequence derived from the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 31 by deletion, substitution, or addition of one or a plurality of amino acid residues;

(c) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 61; or

(d) an amino acid sequence derived from the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 61 by deletion, substitution, or addition of one or a plurality of amino acid residues.

20. (New) A gene encoding the peptide according to claim 17.

21. (New) A gene encoding the peptide according to claim 18.
22. (New) A gene encoding the protein according to claim 19.
23. (New) Double-stranded DNA comprising a region encoding any of the peptides or proteins according to any of claims 18 to 19 and having restriction enzyme sites at both ends.
24. (New) A chimeric protein, wherein any one of the peptides and proteins according to claims 18 to 19 is fused to a transcription factor.
25. (New) A chimeric gene, wherein any of the genes according to claims 20 to 22 is fused to a gene encoding a transcription factor.
26. (New) A recombinant vector according to claim 25.
27. (New) A transformant according to claim 26.
28. (New) A plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 26.